

A. S. Department of Agriculture.

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FIELD DIARY

Cuba & Jamaica  
OF  
1913

Mr.

(Official title.)

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James Wilson

Secretary of Agriculture.

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Mapa General de Comunicaciones  
de la Republica de Cuba

J. G. Vina Editor

Agente Jose Cabell

Munizerrate 2<sup>ta</sup> Havana

The Gundlock birds are  
now in the  
Instituto de Zootecnia

Calle Obispo between  
Calle San Ignacio & Mercaderos

Another natural history  
collection is in  
Escuela Pías (or Escuela  
Escolapias, Guanabacoa  
east of Havana on a trolley  
line).

The deer photographed at  
Camaguey was 720 mm.  
standing (at shoulder).

The birds & nutria  
coll. by Sheldon 7 m.  
out of Camaguey  
were all ♂ except the  
buff-bellied owl which  
was ♀. They were collected  
March 10.

Saw Redstarts, Oriole,  
yellow chin'd grassquits  
& musical quakers at  
Hotel Camaguey, also  
wid tailed hawk with red  
tail wing, dark chestnut red  
but bird otherwise like

B. borealis. On the road  
at Camaguey. Also tree  
ducks, brown with gray & dark  
stripes on flanks, & several  
sand hill cranes (small  
ones).

Sheldon found birds very  
abundant on his hunt  
near Camaguey saw a  
big brown Cuckoo, a  
hummer, 2 kinds of orioles  
& many others.

He counted nutrias  
in the woods & saw  
16 at from one spot.  
He says the old males become  
pale with age, but the ♀'s  
are ~~turning to brown~~, ~~with~~  
dark, & much more chestnut  
brownish, orange, & yellow  
mostly.

These animals are extre-  
mely abundant in the  
Canaguay district.  
Mr Castillo, the banker at  
Canaguay told us that  
he has a 600 acre farm  
just outside town where these  
animals do much damage  
to his garden. ~~One day~~  
Presently he made a hunt  
for them & killed 74 in one  
day.  
On March 11 while on train  
from Canaguay to Santiago

While passing through  
forest ~~area~~ from 60-80 miles  
out of Camaguey we saw  
10 of them from the train.  
They were sitting or moving  
slowly about on the large

branches of the medium  
sized trees. They are extremely  
conspicuous as the trees  
they frequent are poorly  
foliated so they are visible  
at long distance. They  
usually stand or lie length-  
wise on the branches but  
sometimes sit crosswise  
like a squirrel the tail  
hanging down rat-like.  
The people report that  
they are equally common  
throughout the forests of  
Cuba & that during the  
revolutions against the Spanish  
they supplied an inexhaustible  
source of food for the rebels  
who had only to climb the  
low trees & knock them out  
with a club or machete  
as the huts are extremely slow

and stupid. When caught  
alive they are said to bite  
savagely with their large  
canines.

In addition to the hutias  
the Camaguey region is  
overrun with large numbers  
of wild dogs which are  
said to have been here before  
the discovery of the island by  
the Spaniards. These dogs  
are very shy but come  
about ranches at night &  
are extremely destructive to  
domestic fowl, small pigs  
goats etc. They have a short  
yapping howl said  
to have longer hair & more  
bushy tail than ordinary  
domestic dogs

Sierra Maestra ridge has  
an altitude of about 3500-  
4000 ft. above this rises  
Pico de Turquino with  
alt. of 2420 mts. The  
summit has this form

\* is

heavily wooded.  
The south slope of Sierra  
Maestra has pines from  
about 1500 ft - 3000 & then  
red & other trees come in.  
The forest upper slopes are  
heavily covered with Spanish  
moss & other epiphytic plants  
& the ground is covered with  
soft mossy growth.  
Many Russelias (Myrsinaceae)

Birds on upper slopes were  
different than those on base  
of mt. Saw no deer nor  
Thurais on top.

Botanist Grisebach & Taylor  
visited the lower slopes of  
this range & wrote a pamphlet  
on the plants up to divide.  
This was about 1906.

To go to Pico Tuguiro  
the best way is to hire a small  
schooner at Santiago for \$20.-  
\$30. each way. Go to Chirivico  
Harbor (= Guamaí) about 40 miles  
from Santiago.

The lands about the mt. are  
in disputed ownership &  
no permission needed to go  
on them.

At Guamaí a storekeeper,  
Antonio Vasquez who  
can get guides  
(Edwin & Whiting)

Santiago

Who will give letter to Vasquez.  
~~Whiting had~~ Suggestion for

Pastor & Miguel who were

with Whiting on his trip

to top of Sierra.

Guides cost about \$1.50 a day  
& grub.

From Guamaí it would  
be best to get horse outfit  
& pack with along coast  
to Bayanita village.

From there the crest range can  
be reached on foot up Bayanito  
river & then the main peak  
reached by trawling along  
crest range to west.

Whiting went to coast  
from Bayanita & his guides  
lived in Guana.

March would be a good  
month (probably the best) it might  
possibly rain in Apr.

Much fog at all times of year.

Jamaica  
Arrived March 1/13

Capromys privicauda said to  
still exist sparingly about base  
of Blue Mts.

Mr. Cundell, Secy Jam. Dist'lty

Mongoose reported to be growing  
less in Jam. owing to increase  
of ticks which attack young.

The "Gleaner" Kingston  
Jam: for Jan 14, 1899  
has ~~not~~ annotated bird  
list of Jam. birds by Mr.  
C. B. Taylor

March 22 made a  
motor trip from Kingston  
to St. Ann's Bay. Saw the  
following birds

Turkey Buzzard  
Many Grackles  
" Mockingbirds  
Ground dove  
Pigeon

Gulls

Coliophaea

March 30 -

10 m. south of Trappick Id  
light ship saw ~~100+~~ <sup>100+</sup> Bonaparte Gulls?  
Saw 1 or ~~2~~ <sup>Continued</sup> sooty terns  
flying north also from the  
north into Delaware Bay.

Many Herring & Ring-bill Gulls.  
From this light ship north

20 m. saw ~~40+~~ many red  
throated loons & a large

number of Horned Grebes

a few Black Scoter & 3

White-winged Scoter.

Also what appeared to be  
1 Guillet and it had a white  
area extending up over Cheeks  
from a white area of neck.

Off Delaware Bay a few

Bonaparte Gulls.

From the light ship north

~~some gulls seen to~~

for 30 m. very little a

number of White-tailed Gulls.

Herring Gull

Ring-bill "

Philadelphia " (Sp.)

Booby

Blue-thro. tern

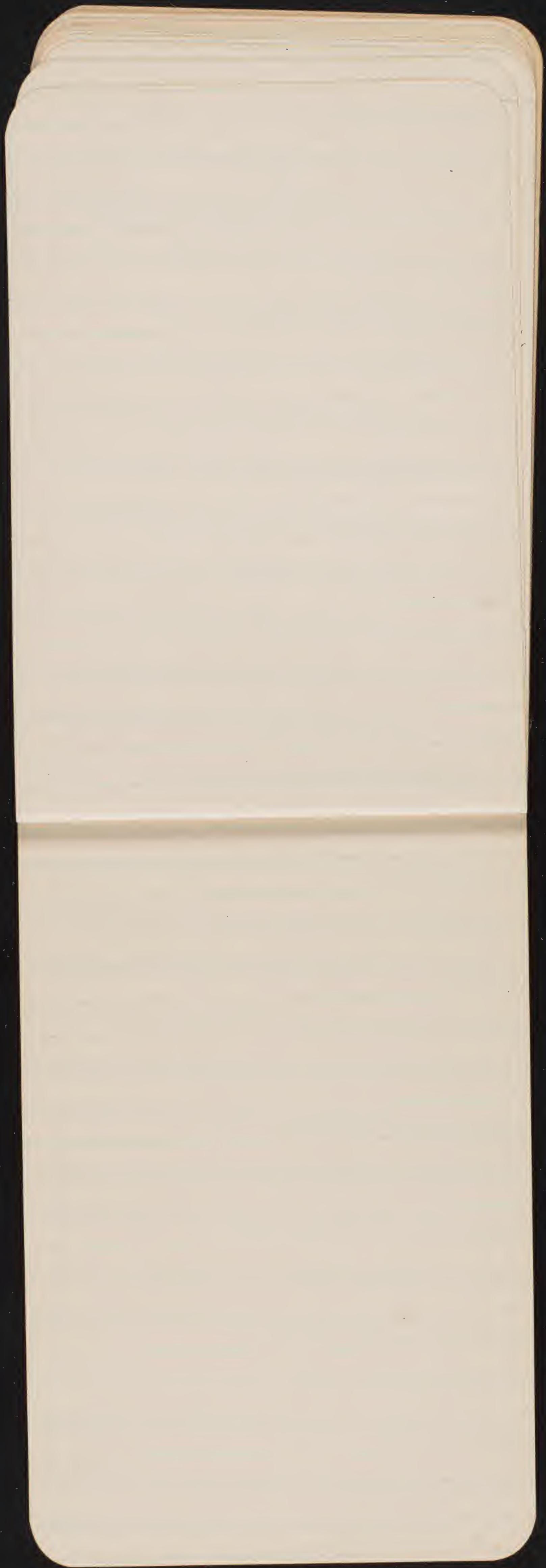
Red " "

Horned Grebe

Black Scoter

Wh. wing. "

Hyde's Actinophotometer  
a disk with blue glass  
~~aprotuberance~~ very good



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